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SPY-SENATE
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WASHINGTON

A congressional committee said today it will follow up the first arrest of an FBI agent on spy charges with an inquiry into the agency's internal security procedures.

Official Washington was shocked yesterday by the announcement Richard Miller, a 20-year veteran of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, had been arrested on charges of passing classified documents to a female Soviet KGB operative.

"Questions will have to be answered," said an official of the Senate Intelligence Committee. "Inquiries will be made, but not while the matter is pending in the courts."

No trial date has yet been set.

Committee officials said they will question avowed FBI policy against use of lie detector tests as a precondition for employment, as well as other bureau guidelines on processing agents for security clearance.

The Central Intelligence Agency and the super-secret National Security Agency routinely require a polygraph test before hiring an employee.

The official said the panel, which keeps track of FBI counterintelligence activities, received a briefing on the incident, but has no plans for such formal action as a hearing.

The FBI charged Miller handed over secret documents in a plot involving a Russian couple who immigrated to the United States in 1973 and allegedly were covert KGB agents.

The FBI said Miller sought \$50,000 in gold and \$15,000 dollars in cash for the documents, and that he was believed to have had a sexual relationship with the 34-year-old Svetlana Ogorodnikov.

Rep. Don Edwards, a California Democrat who is a member of the House Judiciary Committee, told reporters he viewed it as an isolated incident rather than indicating widespread FBI security problems.

Edwards, an ex-FBI agent, denied published speculation by former CIA official Ray Cline that the case may have stemmed from poor morale because of congressional investigations into intelligence activities in the 1970s.

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"It's disturbing that people seeking freedom from the Soviet bloc settle down in this country and become agents. How many are there?" Edwards asked.

Although the Miller case represented the first time an FBI agent had been charged with foreign espionage in the agency's 76-year history, Edwards and others cited similar cases at the CIA and the Defense Department in the past.

STAT John Greaney, executive director of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, said the incident illustrated the serious problems stemming from Moscow's drive to acquire U.S. intelligence.

"It demonstrates an aggressiveness of the Soviet Union to involve an active FBI agent. There is a lot more of this going on than the American people realise," said Greaney whose private group claims to represent 3,500 former intelligence members.

He said part of the problem stems from congressional restrictions on FBI coverage of internal security.